

- (a) aspirin orally administered in a dose effective to block prostaglandin function in platelets sufficiently to reduce the ability of platelets to go to the site of the endothelial damage and recruit other cells to assist in thrombosis; and
  - (b) a vitamin orally administered in a dose effective to reduce the migration of cholesterol into the endothelium, wherein said multivitamin comprises at least one vitamin from the group including niacin, vitamin C, vitamin E, and vitamin B<sub>6</sub>.
28. A medicament as defined in claim 27, wherein said multivitamin contains between about 10 percent and 200 percent of the United States Recommended Daily Allowance of at least one vitamin selected from the group consisting of vitamin B<sub>6</sub>, vitamin C, vitamin E, and niacin.

#### REMARKS

Claims 27 - 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Hanneckens (5,871,766) in that it is asserted to teach the composition of beta-carotene and aspirin. While it is not explicitly asserted in the Office Action, it is understood that the Examiner is applying the reference to the present application in that beta-carotene has vitamin A activity. The foregoing amendments remove vitamin A from the claims 27 and 28.

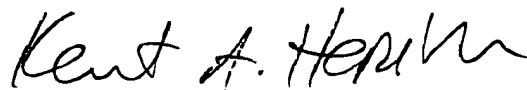
The application has been amended to correct minor informalities, to further distinguish the application over the prior art, and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention so as to place the application, as a whole, into a prima facie condition for allowance. Great care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new subject matter into the application as a result of the foregoing modifications.

Accordingly, the purpose of the claimed invention is not taught nor suggested by the cited references, nor is there any suggestion or teaching which would lead one skilled in the relevant art to combine the references in a manner which would meet the purpose of the claimed invention. Because the cited references, whether considered alone, or in combination with one another, do not teach nor suggest the purpose of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the prior art, including the art cited merely of record.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that its claims 27 - 29, as amended, are in condition for allowance at this time, patentably distinguishing over the cited prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and passage to allowance are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney at (515) 288-2500 to discuss the claims in an effort to reach a mutual agreement with respect to claim limitations in the present application which will be effective to define the patentable subject matter if the present claims are not deemed to be adequate for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: November 14, 2001

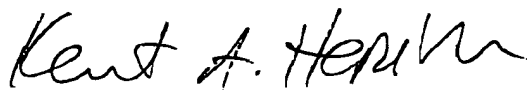
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE FILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to the 1600 Group Receptionist at facsimile number 703-308-2742 on November 14, 2001

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kent A. Herink". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kent" being the most prominent.

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Kent A Herink

Version with markings to show changes made:

27. (Amended) A medicament for reducing atherosclerotic plaque formation at sites of endothelial damage in humans through the reduction of cholesterol incorporation into the endothelium comprising:
- (a) aspirin orally administered in a dose effective to block prostaglandin function in platelets sufficiently to reduce the ability of platelets to go to the site of the endothelial damage and recruit other cells to assist in thrombosis; and
  - (b) a vitamin orally administered in a dose effective to reduce the migration of cholesterol into the endothelium, wherein said multivitamin comprises at least one vitamin from the group including niacin, vitamin C, vitamin E, [vitamin A,] and vitamin B<sub>6</sub>.
28. (Amended) A medicament as defined in claim 27, wherein said multivitamin contains between about 10 percent and 200 percent of the United States Recommended Daily Allowance of at least one vitamin selected from the group consisting of [vitamin A,] vitamin B<sub>6</sub>, vitamin C, vitamin E, and niacin.